

History Month, I would like to recognize the Divine Nine historically Black fraternities and sororities of the National Pan-Hellenic Council.

For over 100 years, brothers and sisters of the Divine Nine have played an instrumental role in altering the course of American history, and the Divine Nine have served as training grounds for some of our Nation's best and brightest leaders.

The Divine Nine Organizations are:

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, founded in 1986 at Cornell University. Their brotherhood includes the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Congressmen EMANUEL CLEAVER, DANNY DAVIS, CHAKA FATTAH, AL GREEN, GREGORY MEEKS, CHARLES RANGEL, DAVID SCOTT, and BOBBY SCOTT; Ambassador Andrew Jackson Young; the National Urban League president, Marc Morial; legal pioneers Charles Hamilton Houston and Thurgood Marshall; and their honorable grand president, Mark S. Tillman.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, founded in 1908 at Howard University. Their sisterhood proudly boasts Congresswomen SHEILA JACKSON LEE, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, TERRI SEWELL, and FREDERICA WILSON; actress Phylicia Rashad of "The Cosby Show"; author Maya Angelou; civil rights leaders Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King; and their honorable president attorney, Carolyn House Stuart.

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, founded in 1911 at Indiana University. Among their notable achievers are Microsoft chairman and CEO, John W. Thompson; civil rights leader the Reverend Ralph Abernathy; founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus, the Reverend Delegate Walter Fauntroy; Congressmen SANFORD BISHOP, WILLIAM LACY CLAY, JOHN CONYERS, ALCEE HASTINGS, BENNIE THOMPSON, and HAKEEM JEFFRIES; and Grand Polemarch William "Randy" Bates.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, founded in 1911 at Howard University. They include in their ranks Assistant House Democratic Leader JAMES CLYBURN of South Carolina; Congressman HANK JOHNSON of Georgia; NASA Administrator Charles Bolden; comedian Bill Cosby; Dr. Charles Drew, whose medical research in the field of blood transfusions led to the founding of the blood bank; and their honorable grand basileus, Dr. Andrew Ray.

Delta Sigma Theta, founded in 1913 at Howard University. Delta counts as sisters my esteemed colleague and chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, the Honorable MARCIA L. FUDGE; also Congresswomen YVETTE CLARKE and JOYCE BEATTY; Shirley Chisolm, the first African American woman elected to Congress; former Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman; and their honorable president, Paulette C. Walker.

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, founded in 1914 at Howard University. Not only are the Sigmas the fraternity of my husband, Dr. Nathaniel Horn, they also

include former President of the United States William Jefferson Clinton; Congressman JOHN LEWIS; A. Phillip Randolph, civil rights pioneer and leader of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; Dr. George Washington Carver; and their Honorable President, Jonathan Mason.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, founded in 1920 at Howard University. Notable sisters include author Zora Neale Hurston; jazz great Sarah Vaughan; the late Congresswoman Julia Carson; and their honorable president, Mary Breaux Wright.

Sigma Gamma Rho, my sorority, founded in 1922 at Butler University. The sisters of Sigma Gamma Rho include Congresswoman CORRINE BROWN of Florida and the late Congresswoman Lindy Boggs; the first African American winner of an Academy Award, Hattie McDaniel; and our esteemed grand basileus, Bonita Herring.

Finally, Iota Phi Theta, founded in 1963 at Morgan State University. Their notables include Congressman BOBBY RUSH; Billy Ocasio, former alderman to Chicago's 26th Ward and current adviser to Governor Pat Quinn; and their honorable grand polaris, Robert Clark.

Whether it has been standing up for women's suffrage, advancing civil rights by dismantling Jim Crow, advancing the science of medicine, or leading in business innovation, the Divine Nine has been there the entire time leading from the front.

The Divine Nine's scope of service is felt far beyond their organizational borders. The work of these fraternities and sororities has helped to make this Nation a better place for all Americans. For this, and many other reasons, I thank the entire Divine Nine for a job well done.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As we meditate on all the blessings of life, we especially pray for the blessing of peace in our lives and in our world. Our fervent prayer, O God, is that people will learn to live together in reconciliation and respect, so that the terrors of war and of dictatorial abuse will be no more.

In a special way, we ask Your blessing upon the people of Ukraine. May peace and civility descend upon that nation as it finds itself in political turmoil.

May Your special blessings be upon the Members of this assembly as they return from a week in their home districts. Give them wisdom and charity, that they might work together for the common good.

May all that is done this day in the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

THE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH RATE FORMULA

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, in just a little bit over a month's time, the Nation's physicians will face a 25 percent reduction in payment in the Medicare system. This severely affects access for Medicare patients and is something that could be resolved.

Two weeks ago, for the first time, introduced in the House, H.R. 4015 was a compromise agreement between Republicans and Democrats, House and Senate, on a way forward for repealing the sustainable growth rate formula.

It does represent a compromise and is not going to please everyone, but it is a significant achievement and was marked by an editorial piece in The Wall Street Journal on February 19 titled "Fixing the 'Doc Fix.'"

In the Journal's editorial, they note that the Senate Finance, House Ways and Means, and Energy and Commerce Committees don't agree on much, but they are doing a service by agreeing to end this charade known as the SGR.

They go on to note that "doctors hate the uncertainty of the SGR." That is an understatement. Every Member of this House has heard from their physicians back home about how much they hate this formula.

They go on to say, "Absent reform, one way or another the money is going